GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:962
ANSWERED ON:12.08.2013
CANTONMENT BOARDS
Kashyap Shri Virender

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether elections for Cantonment Boards are held regularly for all the cantonments of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the facilities provided to the elected representatives of the Board;

(c) whether any representation has been received by the Government from the Board regarding problems being faced by them;

(d) if so, the details thereof along with the action taken thereon;

(e) whether a provision has been made in the Cantonments Act, 2006 for levying Service Charges on all the defence buildings; and

(f) if so, the rate of service charge along with the way the said amount is utilised?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY)

(a) & (b) The elections for Cantonment Boards are held in accordance with provisions of section 14 and 15 of the Cantonments Act, 2006. Consequent upon enactment of the Cantonments Act, 2006 and notification of the Cantonment Electoral Rules, 2007, elections to 58 out of 62 Cantonment Boards were held during June to September, 2008 and elections for the remaining 4 Cantonment Boards were held during 2009-10 due to various reasons including stay by Courts, insufficient nominations, close proximity to election for State Legislature etc. The terms of elected members of the 58 Cantonments where elections were due in June, 2013 has been extended up to 31.12.2013 due to non-availability of Census, 2011 data. Elected members are entitled to certain allowances in terms of the Cantonments (Payment of Allowances to Vice-President and Elected Members) Rules, 2011 notified vide SRO 6(E) dated 1.8.2011.

(c) & (d) Representations have been received form elected members of some Cantonment Boards requesting for payment of allowances from the date of their becoming members of the Boards instead of from the date of notification of the Cantonments (Payment of Allowances to Vice -President and Elected Members) Rules, 2011 i.e. 1.8.2011. The representations have been examined in consultation with Ministry of Law and it has been decided that the allowances cannot be paid from retrospective effect.

(e) & (f) Section 109 of the Cantonments Act, 2006 provides for payment to be made to a Board as service Charges by Central Government or State Government. The service charges are calculated at the rate of 33 1/3 percent of the rate of property tax leviable on private properties in a Cantonment. The service charges allocated to Cantonment Boards become part of the Cantonment fund and are utilized by the Boards as per budgetary sanctions.